

found both their nests this season, my notes on them may be of interest to those who follow birds' nesting as a pleasure.

I found the Yellow-browed Bulbul fairly common on the Sahayadris, south of Satara and also at Ootacamund. This year, not far from Khandalla, I came on it again, though not in numbers. It is a shy, retiring bird; the best way of obtaining a view is to sit quiet in the jungle, when it is sure to be seen. The bird has a low soft whistle and moves rapidly, flying low from one shrub to another. I found a nest on the 9th April, which unfortunately contained two young birds a few days old. It was placed in the fork of a sapling about 12 to 15 feet from the ground, being swung cradle-like similar to the Oriole. It was quite visible, no attempt being made to select a site concealed by leaves. The small tree, on which it was built, was in a dense jungle, so far as shade was concerned, though there was no undergrowth to speak of. I watched by the nest till the parent appeared. She was evidently fidgetty, as it took her some little while to approach the nest and feed the young.

The Spotted Babbler is also a very timid, shy bird; it usually clears off as soon as possible if any one is about; hence it has probably been overlooked a good deal. I came on any number at Matheran. The bird is fond of thick jungle, in which it wanders about on the ground, very like a lark, and turns over leaves in search of moths, several of which I saw captured. It possesses some rather good notes, not unlike the Nilgiri Flycatcher, which it utters at intervals. It was some time before I was able to discover the owner of these notes, as the bird usually stops on any one approaching. I found a nest on the 20th May at Matheran, by the bird darting out from almost under my feet. It was situated on the ground against a small rock, nicely sheltered, not far from a path. The nest is round with an entrance at one side, not unlike that of the Southern Scimitar Babbler (*P. horsfieldii*) and composed of dry leaves, lined with fine grass, stems and roots; as it was more or less embedded in leaves it is a nest difficult to find unless the bird betrays it by leaving on one's approach. There were three fresh eggs, which I left for a day, but no more were laid. They have a greyish-white ground and are thickly speckled with brown and lilac, so much so that the ground colour is difficult to distinguish. They are not unlike some types of *Thamnobia*. The dimensions of the three eggs approximately are as follows:— $\cdot 86'' \times \cdot 65''$ ;  $\cdot 85'' \times \cdot 66''$ ;  $\cdot 82'' \times 65''$ .

R. M. BETHAM, MAJOR,  
8th Bombay Infantry.

POONA, 25th May, 1903.

#### No. V.—FOOD OF *DRYOPHIS MYCTERIZANS*.

The following note on the food of *Dryophis mycterizans* may be of some interest.

When out shooting on the 7th April (evening) my attention was attracted by something moving in a bush close to the path along which I was going; on going up to see what the cause of it was, I found a very large specimen of *Dryophis mycterizans* tackling a fair-sized *Tropidonotus stolatus*. I watched the pair for some time, in fact until I had satisfied myself that *mycterizans* by having got the

head and neck of the other snake down its throat intended making a meal of him. This was confirmed the next morning, for on passing the same way I found the snake (*Dryophis mycterizans*) coiled up asleep and gorged on the same bush.

A. M. PRIJMOSE.

TERREMIYA TEA ESTATE,  
KULLAKUMBAY P.O., NILGIRIS.  
May, 1903.

[NOTE.—The above is another instance of cannibalism in snakes. Quite recently in our Museum we had a live *Coluber helena*, which twice attempted to swallow a very attractive looking golden tree-snake (*Chrysopela ornata*). The latter was fortunately rescued. The same day a young Dhàman (*Zamenis mucosus*) measuring about 24 inches in length attempted to swallow a beautiful specimen of *Oligodon subgriseus*, and to-day a young *Gongylophis conicus* attempted to devour a young *Tropidonotus piscator*. In each case the intended victim was a new arrival to the cage, and possibly was looked on as an unwelcome intruder. But from the number of instances that have happened it appears to be a fairly common occurrence for snakes to feed on each other.

W. S. MILLARD,

Hony. Secy., Bombay Natl. Hist. Society.]

8th June, 1903.

No. VI.—NOTE ON *CLANGULA GLAUCION* (THE GOLDEN-EYE).

On the 25th of April I had the skin of a duck sent me by Mr. Morton Eden to identify, which proved to be that of a female Golden-eye. With the skin Mr. Morton Eden sent the following note: "I think it is a Golden-eye..... it is not a rare bird above Sampura." In answer to a letter from me Mr. Eden then sent me the following interesting notes on what he had observed. He writes: "I shot this bird on the 3rd of February last a few miles above Sampura. I was coming down stream at the time when the bird, which was by itself, got up a long way down and flew up stream, passing my boat at a distance of some 50 yards, and I fired at and dropped it.

"Above Sampura up to and beyond Sidaroo, Golden-eyes are not at all uncommon, and I must have seen a hundred or more last January and February. They occur either singly or in small flocks of eight or ten birds; they are wild and will not let a boat anywhere near them, but rise 100 to 150 yards off, and generally make a fairly long flight before again settling.

"They always flew off when disturbed, and I never saw them try to escape by diving.

"In the early mornings I saw them, on several occasions, fighting in company with Mergansers. Their flight is rapid, much like that of a Tufted Pochard, but not quite, I think, so rapid as that of a White-eyed Pochard.

"I may mention that I shot a Golden-eye about 10 miles from here in the cold weather of 1885-6. I sent the skin down to Calcutta, and I think they have it in the Indian Museum."

The rivers mentioned by Mr. Morton Eden in the first part of his notes are in Sadiya, and are practically hill rivers of rapid running clear water. They are of